

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-25 (Canceled).

Claim 26 (New): A method for depositing at least one functional film on at least a part of one face or both faces of flat or curved substrates, comprising:

leading the substrates one by one into a film-coating station so as to be advanced therein along their plane or mean plane, a film applicator unit, comprising at least one axis perpendicular to a direction of advancement and parallel to the plane of advancement and on which there is mounted at least one reel of film, being disposed in the film-coating station, and, in the film coating station, a leader of the film of each of the reels is brought to be applied to and held against one face of the substrate at a chosen location, unwinding of the reel or reels of film being triggered with a view to the film being applied in a strip to the advancing substrate, then the film is cut at a chosen moment and a new film leader is held to be ready to be applied at a chosen location on a same substrate, or on a following substrate, a band width of each reel and their location on axes being chosen as a function of regions of the substrates which are to be covered by each film.

Claim 27 (New): The method as claimed in claim 26, wherein an applicator unit is used comprising an axis on which there is mounted at least one reel of film, whereby on one face of the substrate, in the direction of advancement of the substrate, as many parallel bands or strips can be applied as there are reels, the beginning and the end of each band being precisely positioned on the substrate, the bands being mutually spaced apart and application of the bands configured to be halted and resumed on one and the same substrate during its advancement.

Claim 28 (New): The method as claimed in claim 26, wherein an applicator unit is used comprising at least two parallel axes, each axis bearing at least one reel, the at least one reel borne by an axis being staggered relative to at least one reel borne by a neighboring axis, whereby on one face of the substrate, in the direction of advancement of the substrate, as many parallel bands or strips can be applied as there are reels, the beginning and the end of each band being precisely positioned on the substrate, the bands configured to overlap according to the location of two neighboring reels on their two axes and application of the bands configured to be halted and resumed on one and the same substrate during its advancement.

Claim 29 (New): The method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the substrates are fed into the film-coating station vertically or in a position slightly inclined relative to the vertical.

Claim 30 (New): The method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the substrates are fed horizontally into the film-coating station.

Claim 31 (New): The method as claimed in claim 26, wherein a functional film is used which is peelable, bonded, partially bonded, bonded on pre-cut zones, or of decal transfer type.

Claim 32 (New): The method as claimed in claim 26, wherein a functional film is used which is chosen from amongst protective films, decorative films, information-carrying films, and mechanical reinforcement films.

Claim 33 (New): The method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the coating of glass sheets is realized, having, on at least one face, a functional layer, the glass sheets being flat or with rounded or curved faces, the glass sheets configured to form panes or to be cut to obtain panes or configured to form windshields or automobile windows.

Claim 34 (New): The method as claimed in claim 33, wherein the coating is carried out on flat glass sheets configured to be cut to form panes, wherein application of peelable protective film strips is carried out so that uncoated zones are arranged in a grid pattern, each zone coated by a strip corresponding to daylight of a pane, and the uncoated zones are configured to allow direct cutting of the glass forming margins of the panes configured to be introduced into rabbets of the frames and to be hidden from view by glazing beads.

Claim 35 (New): The method as claimed in claim 33, wherein the coating is performed on curved substrates, wherein a film is chosen, extensibility properties of which allow the film to be applied to all of planned application regions and/or a width of the reels and hence of the strips is regulated as a function of the radius of curvature, the width of the strips being smaller than the radius of curvature.

Claim 36 (New): The method as claimed in claim 26, comprising:
defining for each of the substrates, as a function of its intended purpose and on at least one outer face of the substrate, a region or regions which are due to receive a film and a region or regions which do not need to be coated by the film;
feeding the substrates successively into the film-coating station and commanding, for each substrate, the application of film in the regions intended to receive such a film; and
gathering the substrates which are thus coated.

Claim 37 (New): The method as claimed in claim 36, wherein, by computerized calculation, an optimization of positioning of the film on the different substrates of the succession of substrates is realized as a function of dimensions of the substrates and a relative position of the regions due to be coated and the regions not due to be coated.

Claim 38 (New): The method as claimed in claim 37, wherein the optimization is equally realized as a function of fitment of the reels and the different reels which the fitment is capable of receiving.

Claim 39 (New): A film-coating machine for implementing the method as defined in claim 26, comprising:

a supporting and successive transfer structure for the sheets to be protected, along their plane or their mean plane;

a film applicator unit comprising at least one perpendicular axis in the planned direction of advancement of the substrates and parallel to the plane of advancement, an axis on which at least one reel of film is configured to be mounted such that the leader of the film proceeds to apply itself to the face of the substrate to be coated as the face is transferred, the unit configured to receive for each substrate during transfer a necessary number of reels and of a band width chosen to form on each substrate the planned coating in strips, the reels being at least partially adjustable in height so as to form on each substrate the planned coating in strips;

means for commanding, at any desired moment, application of the leader of the film of a reel to the substrate; and

means for cutting the band at any desired moment once application is finished, means being provided for holding a new leader formed after the cutting of the band so that it is ready to be re-applied.

Claim 40 (New) The machine as claimed in claim 39, wherein the film applicator unit comprises one or two separate, mutually parallel axes, each axis bearing at least one reel.

Claim 41 (New): The machine as claimed in claim 39, wherein the reels are activable individually or by groups of reels.

Claim 42 (New): The machine as claimed in claim 39, wherein the film applicator unit is movable toward or away from the substrates to be coated, the applicator unit configured to be displaceable in translation to adjust to dimensions of the substrate or of the make up height of the film.

Claim 43 (New): The machine as claimed in claim 39, wherein the reels are mounted such that their leader proceeds to apply itself to the face of the substrate to be coated after passing over an applicator roll.

Claim 44 (New): The machine as claimed in claim 43, wherein with each applicator roll is combined a retractable suction nozzle disposed downstream of the roll on a side opposite the substrate, such that the leader is sucked against the nozzle to be held ready to be applied to the substrate, deactivation of the suction commanding the application to the substrate of the leader of the film, by an adhesive face of the film or by dint of its electrostatic nature.

Claim 45 (New): The machine as claimed in claim 39, wherein the cutting means for the film is constituted by a hot wire which is retractable when not in use and is mounted on the side opposite the substrate.

Claim 46 (New): The machine as claimed in claim 39, wherein with each reel is combined a roll for applying the film to the substrate following the cutting of the film.

Claim 47 (New): The machine as claimed in claim 39, wherein each reel forms part of a film-application module comprising a tension roll for tensioning the film unwound from the reel prior to passing over the applicator roll, a device for loading a new reel of film and for automatically repositioning the film advantageously being incorporated in the module.

Claim 48 (New): The machine as claimed in claim 39, wherein at least one axis of the applicator unit is configured to receive various sets of reels of various band widths.

Claim 49 (New): Sheets, especially sheets of monolithic glass, laminated, coated with functional layers, such as panes, sheets to be cut to form panes, windshields, additionally comprising on at least one of their faces a functional film applied in regions delimited along strips, which strips can have overlapping margins.

Claim 50 (New): Sheets obtained by the method as defined in claim 26.